

◆ The First Congregational Church of Georgetown ◆

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Live Awestruck! Notice the Sacred around You

*I, through the abundance of
your steadfast love,
will enter your house;
I will bow down toward
your holy temple
in awe of you.*

– Psalm 5:7



Rally Day is September 13, and I'm excited to introduce my worship theme for FCC's 2026-27 church year, **"Live Awestruck! Notice the Sacred around You."**

Awe is a profound emotional response that can significantly impact our wellbeing and perception of the world. It often arises from **experiences that transcend our usual understanding**, such as viewing vast landscapes, listening to powerful music, encountering extraordinary acts of kindness, or feeling heightened devotion and a Divine Presence connecting us all.

As a species, humans are prone to focus on that which we dread and fear. After all, that "fight or flight" response helps keep us alive. But now the frequency of bad news is off the charts, and it isn't keeping us alive; rather, it is quietly draining the life right out of us. So, now more than ever, we must engage in **awe-filled practices that heighten our connection to God** and improve our spiritual (and also mental, emotional, social, and physical) wellbeing.

Continued on the next page.

Moreover, in recent years, the publication of scientific research related to awe has ramped up. After reading Dacher Keltner's book *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*, I am convinced that the overarching requirement for **a life of inner peace and contentment** is awe. This is something that biblical poets and mystics have been telling us for eons! What modern-day research bears out is that awe is not simply a feel-good emotion, it has consequences for how we perceive the world around us, how we experience the events happening in our lives, and how we treat others. It can also improve our life expectancy and our dedication to the common good!

Indeed, I can think of **no better mission for our time** – and not just for church-goers! One of the most important things that FCC can do is be “purveyors of awe” – to promote the idea of awe to the wider community, to those who will never attend a worship service. We can



make the world a better place, not only by inviting people to worship with us, but also by inviting people to experiences that promote awe. That is one reason why I have started a public **art gallery** in our narthex and booked two **candlelight concerts** to take place in our sanctuary.

So, my plan is to start off our church year with worship services that encourage parishioners to curate a life of spiritual depth by **noticing the Sacred among the ordinary**. Then, during the Advent and Christmas seasons, I'll focus on ways that you can reflect the Sacred back into your homes, your workplaces, and the world.

Let's approach this church year with awe!

~Pastor Marie

SEPTEMBER 2026

**Click below with your sound on
to watch a video trailer of
Pastor Marie's 2026-27 worship theme.**



that can significantly impact

Link to Rev. Marie's video trailer above, if needed:

<https://bit.ly/4grW2Oj>

**When you see Pastor
Marie's altar on
September 13, see if
you can figure out what
her favorite color is. Let
her know your guess!**

**Want to learn more
about the science and
theology of awe?
Check out Pastor Marie's
Reading List at
<https://bit.ly/4wVnqJd>**

SEPTEMBER 2026



September 2 Worship Service: “Called to Create”

Jennifer Revill, known as the “Mobile Mystic,” will lead our final Wednesday evening service on September 2.

The service theme will be “Called to Create.” Creative actions are seeds that sprout and bloom when we spill them onto the soil of life. Together, we will reflect on how our creations connect to our spirituality and how they ripple through the world when they are intentionally and lovingly offered. There will be plenty of time to **make collage art or to write your own poetry or reflections**, and to share your work, if desired.

After earning a master's degree in Spirituality and Spiritual Direction from Merrimack College in 2021, Jennifer founded The Mobile Mystic, a practice dedicated to bringing people together to creatively explore their spiritual lives. She is a spiritual director who works one-



on-one with those seeking to discover and deepen their spiritual journeys. Jennifer also serves as a small-group ministry facilitator and worship leader at the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers. To learn more about Jennifer, visit:

<https://themobilemystic.net>.

SEPTEMBER 2026

FCC ART GALLERY

Free



09/13/2026

GRAND OPENING!

First Congregational Church
7 Andover St. Georgetown, MA

THANK you!

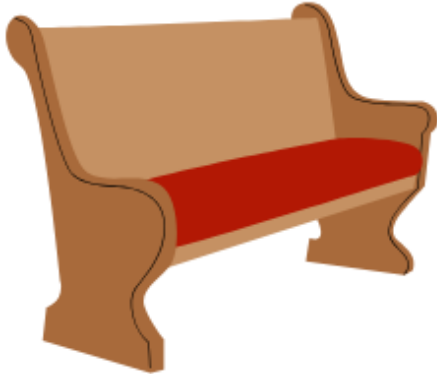
**SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO
HELPED SPRUCE UP OUR
NARTHEX & SANCTUARY!**



**PASTOR MARIE
TOM JOHNSON
JO ANNE KELLY
ZACH BROCK
RICH BROCK
JULIE BENIER
CURT FISCHER
TONI CASSIDY
GAIL MOREHOUSE**

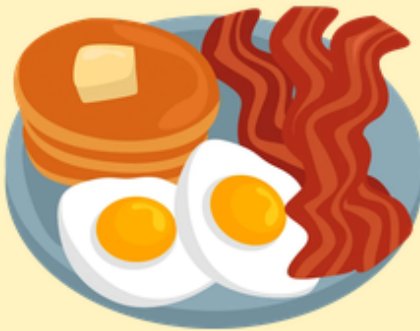
PASTOR MARIE'S WISHLIST

The beautiful woodwork in our narthex and sanctuary looks dull, scratched, and lifeless. Doesn't God deserve better?



Are you able to help polish the wood and pews on your own schedule? We have all the supplies! If several people can each do a little at a time, everything will be looking like new by Christmas!

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, September 12
8:00 am
Cafe Sarina
Georgetown

KNITTING CIRCLE



Whether you're an experienced knitter or simply interested in learning, everyone is welcome to join our cozy and friendly knitting circle. Come enjoy conversation, creativity, and community!

7:00 PM
September 10 and 24
Women's Parlor
(adjoining FCC's Fellowship Hall)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Golf Outing – All Are Welcome!

Far Corner Golf Course

5 Barker Road
Boxford, MA 01921
Sunday,
September 20, 2026
Cost: \$150 per player
Start time Noon

18 holes of golf w/cart

Best Ball Format

After Golf BBQ

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

- Lowest team score
- Most Accurate Drive
- Closest to the pin
- Close but No Cigar

All for just
\$150/player!!
Such a Deal!!

Fill out the entry form
and mail to:

Richard Aberman
15 Corrine Drive
Dracut, MA 01826 978-
457-5475

richardaberman@hotmail.com
or

Rich Brock
29 Thurlow Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
617-717-9895
rsbrock88@gmail.com

Make check payable to
First Congregational
Church of Georgetown.

Annual Golf Extravaganza to Benefit the First Congregational Church of Georgetown



This year's event will be held on **Sunday, September 20th** at the **Far Corner Golf Course** in Boxford.

Tee-off begins at 12:00pm.

There will be an awards presentation and BBQ directly after golf in the clubhouse.

Player Name	Email	Phone#
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Golf attire is required. Collared shirts and slacks/shorts/skirts.

SEPTEMBER 2026

FCC Newsletter Update

We've noticed through our email software that even the most ardent parishioners are opening only about half of our weekly newsletters. Since so much of the information is repeated week to week, we have decided to switch to a **twice-monthly** publication schedule. Therefore, going forward, watch for our issues to arrive in your inbox around the 1st and 15th of each month. Of course, if something important arises in between those dates, we'll keep you posted! 😊



An End-of-Summer Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our summer worship services such a success, especially:

Pam Sheehan — Suppers

Alecia Baldof & Pat Sorenson — Music

Jo Anne Kelley & Tom Johnson — Set-Up

**Rich Brock, Bob Knapp & Rachel Angerhofer —
Tech and Zoom**

We are so grateful for your time, talents, and willingness to help make our services so meaningful.

SEPTEMBER 2026



Present



A Coffee House Open Mic

Join us for an evening of live
performances, coffee, and desserts

Musicians, poets, and other
performers of all ages are
welcome to share their gifts
with the community!

Saturday, September 26
7:00 - 9:00 pm

First Congregational Church Parish Hall
7 Andover Street, Georgetown, MA

FREE ADMISSION with
GOODWILL OFFERING to SUPPORT
RUTH'S HOUSE of HAVERHILL





Book Club News

Book Club resumes again on **Wednesday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes.** In this warm and heartfelt novel, Jojo Moyes tells the story of Lila Kennedy whose already complicated life becomes even more chaotic when her estranged father unexpectedly returns.

Filled with humor, love, and family drama, *We All Live Here* is a touching story about forgiveness, second chances, and discovering that families don't have to be perfect to be full of love.

Sign on by navigating to the church website. Then select "Ministries/ What We Are Reading." The link will connect directly to Zoom. **Everyone is welcome!**

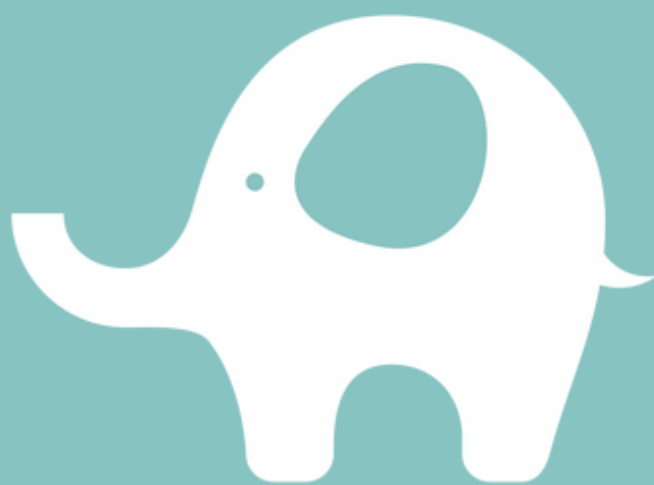
Selections for Upcoming Months

October 28	<i>And Then We Hit a Rock</i> by Greg Buenzli
December 7	<i>Yesteryear</i> by Caro Claire Burke
January 27	<i>Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team</i> by Elsie Hooper.
February 24	<i>Minding Frankie</i> by Maeve Binchy
March 31	<i>Theo of Golden</i> by Allen Levi
April 28	<i>Whistler</i> by Ann Patchett
May 26	<i>The First Witch of Boston</i> by Andrea Catalano
June 23	<i>The Correspondent</i> by Virginia Evans

SEPTEMBER 2026

FCC FALL FAIR

WHITE ELEPHANT



It's time to clean out your closets and donate your gently-used items to our Fall Fair Tag Sale! Donations can be dropped off at the church before/after worship services or during office hours.

Acceptable Items

- Women's & Children's Clothing
- Jewelry, Shoes, Purses & Accessories
- Tools
- Books (especially children's)
- Toys and Complete Puzzles
- Clean Linens
- Housewares and Kitchen Items
- Dish Sets, Glassware
- Small Furniture (Lamps, End Tables)

Unacceptable Items

- Electronics
 - TVs
 - Computers
 - Printers
 - CD/DVD players
- Sports Equipment
- Encyclopedias
- Reference Books
- Larger or Upholstered Furniture

September



Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs
9:00 AM - Noon

Pastor Marie's Upcoming Office Hours by appointment

Contact Information

Office Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Rev. Marie's Email: pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Pastoral Emergency Phone: (978) 225-3086



SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM THE UCC CHURCH IN GROVELAND



A vibrant poster for the Groveland Congregational Church's 300th Anniversary Block Party. The top features a cartoon character named Bill, a smiling bell, and the church building. The main title 'Step into HISTORY' is in large, stylized letters, with '1726-2026' below it. A central sign reads 'GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH' and 'All are Welcome & Included Here'. The event details are in a circular badge: 'SEPTEMBER 5TH 11AM-6PM'. The main announcement 'ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR 300TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY!' is in large, bold letters. Below this, a section titled 'Who Better to tell Groveland's 300 year old Story?' lists activities: 'COSTUMED VOLUNTEERS & STORYTELLERS', 'FOOD & REFRESHMENTS', 'LIVE MUSIC', 'KIDS CORNER', and 'MEET "BELLE"'. A 'COME IN COSTUME!' section encourages dressing in historical attire. The bottom includes contact information for volunteers and the church's motto: 'Celebrate Our Past. Enjoy Our Present. Inspire Our Future.'

Hi! I'm **Bill!**
Let's Celebrate Together!

Step into
HISTORY
1726-2026

GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
All are Welcome & Included Here

ALL ARE WELCOME TO
JOIN OUR **300TH**
ANNIVERSARY
BLOCK PARTY!

SEPTEMBER
5TH
11AM-6PM

Who Better to tell Groveland's 300 year old Story?
Groveland Folks Past and Present of Course!
Come Help us Celebrate 300 Years!

COSTUMED VOLUNTEERS & STORYTELLERS
Meet the people, hear the stories, and explore the events that shaped our church, our town, and our nation.

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
Enjoy great food throughout the day.

LIVE MUSIC
Celebrating the sounds and spirit of community.

KIDS CORNER
Hands-on activities, games, and arrowhead digs for young explorers.

MEET "BELLE"
Hear the story of Groveland's beloved Paul Revere bell inspired the children's book: *BELLE, I AM STILL RINGING!*

COME IN COSTUME!
★
Dress in clothing from any of the six historical eras and become part of the story.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER TO BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION?
Contact the Church Office for more information.

gccucc@gmail.com
978-372-3463

★ Celebrate Our Past. Enjoy Our Present. Inspire Our Future. ★

FROM THE UCC CHURCH IN ROWLEY

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY'S
17TH ANNUAL EZEKIEL ROGERS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY OCT 16TH
8:30 AM REGISTRATION
9:30 AM TEE TIME

\$175 PER PLAYER
\$35 PER PERSON - LUNCH ONLY

Golf includes on-course contests
and prizes with lunch to follow
During lunch, there will be a silent
auction and raffle opportunities!

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS:

- FAMILY HOLE \$75
- CORPORATE HOLE \$150
- PUTTING GREEN \$200
- LUNCH \$500
- GOLF BALLS \$750



**FAR CORNER
GOLF COURSE**
5 Barker Street
Boxford MA 01921

FOR INFORMATION:
Deborah Confalone
(781) 290 6502
dconfalone@comcast.net